

Commission's Grant Application Form

Shelby County Board of Commissioners

GRANT APPLICATION

Legal Name of the Organization:	Agape Child & Family Services, Inc.
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EIN:	23-7039683
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Street Address of Organization	111 Racine Street Memphis, TN 38111
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Office Phone:	9013233600
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E-mail	Marla.Brown@agapemeanslove.org
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

First Name	David
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Last Name	Jordan
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GENERAL CONTACT FOR THIS REQUEST(if other than Executive Director)

First Name	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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Last Name	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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Title:	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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DESCRIPTION OF GRANT REQUEST

Program/Project Area:	Families in Transition
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Amount Requested	75,000
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Total Organizational budget (for current year):	4,000,000.00
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Total Project/Program Budget:	1,268,900.00
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Dates covered by this budget:	October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017
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Project/Program Name:	Families in Transition
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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF ORGANIZATION

Please summarize in a short paragraph the purpose of your agency. Briefly explain why your agency is requesting this grant, what outcomes you hope to achieve, and how you will spend the funds if a grant is made.

→ The Memphis Family Connection Center (formerly the Adoption Support Center) launched in the Fall 2015, serving anyone touched by adoption in the Greater Memphis community, especially those having significant difficulty after the adoption has been finalized. Due to the 98.9% success rate of this post-adoptive therapeutic model, Agape, along with its Tennessee collaborators, received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services “2008 Excellence in Adoption Award” and then the “2011 Angel in Adoption award” from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute through U.S. Senator Corker. → Agape’s educational focus in low performing schools, and Agape “Educational, Empowerment & Enrichment” (E3) program is an after-school initiative serving school-aged youth in Powerlines apartment communities with individual tutors, supporting what occurred in the school day and group mentors developing relationships with 3-4 youth on a weekly basis. In the past 3 years, nearly 95% of all youth participating graduated to their next grade level. Agape has increased its level of service in the above noted areas from serving 139 clients in 1996 to serving 10,077 children, adult and families in FY2015. On July 1, 2001, Agape Child & Family Services, a Memphis-based non-profit established in 1970 to provide children and families with healthy homes, began holistically serving homeless, pregnant and parenting mothers and their homeless children in a transitional housing and support program called, Families in Transition (FIT). Families in Transition (FIT) was birthed as the first-ever, dynamic collaboration in Memphis to exclusively serve homeless, pregnant and parenting mothers and their homeless children. Since the initiation of FIT in July 2001, Agape has successfully served more than 1,000 homeless mothers and their homeless children. The Families in Transition (FIT) program has a 97% success rate in the past year, which exceeds the regional and

national average of similar programs (having an approximate 50% success rate) of families moving into permanent housing. Agape has more than tripled the FIT program since 2009 to serve a total of 66 homeless, pregnant or parenting women/families and their homeless children at a time. With the requested funding, Agape will expand to serve at least 300 homeless children and 150 homeless mothers annually through FIT in the upcoming fiscal year. NOTE: FIT now serves one-third (33%) of all homeless children and families in Shelby County. Agape is a significant agent toward ending homelessness in Shelby County, especially for homeless children, as the homeless rate decreased by 27% in the past year. Agape serves 66 homeless women and their children in two apartment complexes (New Horizon apartments in Whitehaven and Camelot Manor apartments in Hickory Hill) within the context of a much larger community-focused initiative, led by Agape, whereby 100 non-profits bring their services to such families at the apartments...thus, greatly enhancing the success of FIT with such services as: weekly life skills classes for women, daily after-school tutoring for the youth, GED classes, employment services, computer classes, counseling, social services, health and dental services, and mentoring, just to name a few services. A significant focus of FIT is to provide opportunities for the formerly homeless children to achieve success. Innovative and evidence-based mentoring and tutoring services are brought to them in their schools and/or in the apartment communities where they live. Through our 100-plus partnerships and numerous volunteers, the homeless children are given the opportunity for success. Program outcomes include increased academic success among those served, increased graduation rates and improvements in attitudes, behavior and self-esteem. Important to note is that at least 75% of the FIT mothers have experienced domestic violence and, thus, their children have nearly always experienced the trauma of abuse and violence in their home. Agape partners with the Exchange Club to provide trauma-focused counseling services for those youth. The Goals of the Families in Transition (FIT) program are: 1. At least 80% of the FIT families to obtain and remain in permanent housing upon leaving FIT (NOTE: In the most recent year, the FIT program has had a success rate of 97%, which exceeds any other provider's success rate in the region). 2. At least 80% of these clients will remain in permanent housing for at least one year after program completion. (100% FIT clients in past 2

years remain in permanent housing). 3. At least 90% of babies born to FIT mothers are healthy from birth to 1 year of age-addressing Infant Mortality (NOTE: 98.9% of the FIT mothers served since 2001 have delivered healthy babies and remain well through age 1. This population is, by definition, a high-risk pregnancy population). 4. At least 70% of the graduates in the job development program will hold a permanent job for at least one year after exiting the program. (91% of the FIT graduates in the job development program held a permanent job for at least one year after exiting the program. This is nearly double the communities' success for homeless families). 5. At least 75% of the homeless children, having completed the ASEBA assessment, will improve on social, educational and psychological issues. (93% met this goal in past year).

PROGRAM NEEDS Agape respectfully requests a gift for Agape's FIT program to help raise needed funds to serve 66 families at a time and serve up to 150 annually. Due to recent support from the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice, Agape is able to provide housing and wraparound services for an additional 15 families fleeing domestic violence, beginning in October 2015. Agape has more than quadrupled the FIT program since 2009 with the new expansion and continued support, Agape will serve a total of up to 150 homeless mothers and their children annually through FIT. One significant focus of FIT is to assist the women and children to move from homelessness to their own homes and for the women to be able to provide permanency for their families. To help them achieve this, a range of opportunities are brought to them: weekly Life Skills classes on varied ranges of topics, GED and higher education opportunities, workforce development services/job skills training, counseling, mentoring, case management, healthcare services, budget development, savings planning and other critical support needed for them to achieve the independence they desire. Our history shows a highly successful 90% success rate over the past four years of families remaining in permanent housing after exiting the program. National averages for similar programs are 50%. A second significant focus of FIT is to provide opportunities for the formerly homeless children to achieve success. Innovative and evidence-based mentoring and tutoring services are brought to them in their schools and/or in the communities where they live. Through Agape's 150 plus collaborative partnerships and numerous volunteers, children who are some of the most under-resourced in our community are given

opportunities for success. Program outcomes include increased academic success amongst those served, increased graduation rates and improvements in attitudes, behavior and self-esteem. The funds will be spent to increase the level of service provision in response to the needs of the community. At present Agape has over 40 families fleeing domestic violence seeking services. As the program is at capacity it is Agape's goal to provide homes for these families with children to aid victims of domestic violence. Please see budget request.

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Narrative - Organization

Current programs and accomplishments. Please emphasize the achievements of the recent past.

Noteworthy Program Accomplishments:

- o Performance scoring for the 33 Memphis and Shelby County Homeless Consortium HUD funded projects saw Agape's two housing projects ranking 2nd and 3rd. These same two projects ranked 1st and 2nd of all Consortiums' Transition Housing projects.
- o Agape manages some 30% of the community's homeless as well as victims fleeing domestic violence.
- o In August, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare presented Agape with the 2015 Living Award for Community Inspiration in Faith & Health. This award is presented to organizations "whose lives and work inspire us and help us envision the possibilities to improve the health of our community."
- o In October, Agape was the recipient of (first time ever) funding from Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs, increasing efforts to serve 15 additional families fleeing domestic violence into homelessness!
- o In June, Memphis and Shelby County Homeless Consortium presented Agape Families in Transition Director Marla Brown with its 2015 Beacon Award for local champions of service around homelessness.

Numbers of paid full-time staff:	60
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Number of paid part-time staff:	2
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Number of volunteers:	1,500
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Narrative - Funding Request

Please describe the program/project for which you seek funding and include how it will benefit the general welfare of residents in Shelby County, TN.

The FIT program serves one of the highest-need populations in Memphis: homeless, pregnant adult women and their homeless children as well as victims of domestic violence. In 2014/15, FIT received over 200 requests for its services for homeless, pregnant and/or parenting women. The target population is homeless, pregnant and/or parenting adult women and their homeless children in Shelby County. Agape is the only agency exclusively serving this population long-term. Additionally, The reported domestic violence crime rate for calendar year 2014 compared to 2013 was down 9.3 percent countywide and 10.1 percent in Memphis " The Memphis Police Department's Domestic Violence Bureau reported handling 7,568 cases of domestic violence in 2014; also important to note, there were 4 DV homicides in Memphis in 2014 . These grim statistics offer great perspective into the number of DV offenses and homicides and thus substantiates the need for funding to the Agape Child & Family Services (Agape) Families in Transition (FIT) program transitional housing services for families fleeing domestic violence as well as for community capacity building of such DV housing and support services. Agape, via the FIT program has successfully served women and their children fleeing domestic or dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault for close to fifteen years. With the continuing and imminent need for housing and supportive services for families fleeing DV, the need for continued or supplemental funding is critical and growing in Memphis and Shelby County. It is the goal of Agape's FIT program to provide a safe haven via transitional housing to fifteen families as well as provide extensive supportive services that will build sustainable families, living free from violence through proactive planning and culturally specific services. With funding, a two-generation approach will be utilized to provide these families the much needed safe havens from abusive environments as well as work to end the cycle of poverty. There were 44 domestic violence related homicides in Memphis over a 36 month time period (Jan 2012-December 2014). Conversely, it is important to note, in the city of Memphis, there are a mere 33 beds to serve victims of domestic violence with housing. This lack of available housing places families at an even greater risk of continued abuse, violence and even death. It is the goal of the FIT program to provide transitional housing to thirty families fleeing domestic violence. One particularly urgent need identified through community assessment is for safe housing for victims fleeing abuse and seeking to build an autonomous life from their

abusers. Via local focus groups of domestic violence victims, conducted in March and April of 2015, independent-living housing units are greatly preferred by most victims of DV, yet, congregant living is the current primary form of emergency and transitional housing in Memphis. Not only is independent-living housing preferred by victims of DV, it is also more therapeutically sound as this structure gives victims choices about who to allow in their living space and to set boundaries on who engages with their family in their home setting. More so, in 2012 the overall need for the population is great...in Memphis more than 3 out of every 5 live births (67%) are to unwed mothers (8,617 of the 15,117 live births in 2006...this places Memphis in the top 5 urban communities with this critical need). Also, there are up to 10,000 homeless people every day in Memphis, with one-third of these being women with children (with the majority of the children being under 6 years of age). Finally, infant mortality is a significant issue not only in our community, but especially for this high-risk population-homeless, pregnant mothers, as well as the pregnant women residing in low-income apartment complexes in various communities within the city. This population has some of the highest rates of infant mortality and is one of the significant focuses of the FIT program. What FIT looks like from a day-to-day perspective? Each homeless, pregnant woman and her children live in their own apartment at one of the FIT campuses. The FIT mothers and their children are assisted toward their independence and family health through the following ways: ♣ Each FIT mother is helped by the Agape social worker by assisting each participant in developing a reasonable and workable plan that will lead them to self-sufficiency. ♣ Resident counselors work on-site daily with the FIT families and assist them in their day-to-day living needs. ♣ Individual counseling and group counseling are available through the agency's licensed clinical staff, working on issues such as independent living, inter-personal skills and breaking dependency on harmful relationships. ♣ Agape's staff and partners teach life skills, including job search skills, resume preparation, budgeting and credit repair, household management, housekeeping, proper childcare, parenting and personal hygiene. ♣ Residents are expected to open and manage a personal checking account, which is reviewed weekly during case management sessions. Residents are also expected to save at least 30% of their income once employed. This allows each FIT mother to have resources to assist them

to move into a permanent home at the end of the program. (Note, Agape does not charge FIT families anything financially to be in this program.) Local churches and businesses donate many baby items such as diapers, baby bottles, bibs and baby clothes. Transportation needs are met through the local MATA bus service, with resident managers providing transportation in the agency van when needed to locations not accessible by bus. Agape provides a washer and dryer in each FIT unit where each mother is responsible for doing her own laundry for herself and her child/ren.

General Operating Support

If applying for general operating support, briefly describe how this grant will be used.

With funding, a two-generation approach will be utilized to provide these families the much needed safe havens from abusive environments as well as work to end the cycle of poverty. There were 44 domestic violence related homicides in Memphis over a 36 month time period (Jan 2012-December 2014). Conversely, it is important to note, in the city of Memphis, there are a mere 33 beds to serve victims of domestic violence with housing. This lack of available housing places families at an even greater risk of continued abuse, violence and even death. It is the goal of the FIT program to provide transitional housing to thirty families fleeing domestic violence.

Project Support

Please explain the specific project including a statement of its primary purpose and the need or problem that you are seeking to address.

In Shelby County, 46.6% of all women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime vs. 25% nationally. Of local women in poverty, 55% have had at least one experience of physical or sexual violence as adults. Of these, 51.5% reported they had at least one child under age 18 living with them when the abuse occurred and 34% reported that their child(ren) witnessed the violence. Some children and adolescents will recover, while many others will show signs of distress or develop psychiatric conditions. The effects of exposure to DV often triggers a cycle of on-going violence, with exposed children at much higher risk of becoming abusers themselves – continuing a spiral of family violence. The FIT program takes into account all of the aforementioned and has developed innovative, culturally sensitive services for families, while at the same time addressing and remedying barriers for these families in crisis. Target Population and how they will benefit: The target population for this project are families

victimized by DV and/or sexual assault and their children. The supportive services arm of the program as provided in Table 2 will provide a systemic continuum of care addressing the psychological impacts of DV as well as the economic and social struggles DV survivors endure. The population served at present via other funding sources is comprised of 100% African American women and their children, all living below the poverty level. The target population via funding from the Tennessee Transitional Housing Pilot Program will receive culturally specific services, important to the families served. The effects of exposure to DV often triggers a cycle of on-going violence, with exposed children at much higher risk of becoming abusers themselves – continuing a spiral of family violence. FIT takes into account all of the aforementioned and has developed innovative, culturally sensitive services for families while at the same time addressing and remedying barriers for these families in crisis. This is evidenced in the successful participation of the ten women and twenty-eight child survivors served during 2014-2015. Again, to date, there is a 93% exit rate to permanent housing. Each program participant to date (all 10 head of households) have enrolled in or graduated from an education training curriculum with two moms presently completing internships at a local nursing college! These education and economic support services, provided through FIT, break the cycle of poverty as well as propels the families to self-sufficiency and economic independence. The community at-large is impacted by families served via the current program model as survivors are living out lives that contribute to the well-being and improvement of the neighborhood (increase economic development impact with employment, improvement in area school performance, reduction in child abuse, DV or assault and other crime rates, increase in permanent housing stability and healthy families). FIT has an 80% success rate in economic independence and stability in the last 12 months. The program model is innovative insofar as it provides units in apartment complexes that are primarily filled with market rate renters. FIT program participants are “anonymous” to other renters, served by program staff that are available and on call twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. The program provides fully-furnished housing, alarmed units with extensive supportive services including on-site social workers providing holistic life and family assistance, educational and economic support for employment with minimally a living wage, mentoring, mental health

counseling, weekly life skills classes, and support from resident counselors addressing daily needs and issues. Further, via the transition in place model, families may transition into permanent housing in the actual apartment unit they are provided upon entering the program. The families are then able to remain viable, contributing members of the community and also stay closely connected to support services by accessing and coordinating a full range of human services on-site for residents of those apartment complexes via FIT support staff, as well as by the 100-plus other non-profit agencies, corporations, churches and volunteers recruited and trained by Agape. Site-based services and support include, but are not limited to after-school tutoring center, GED classes, computer classes, counseling, social services, health and dental services, and mentoring. Program funds will be used to subsidize housing costs for fifteen families (i.e. 10 independent-living apartment units for victims of domestic and family violence in this project at a time, with 10 families to be served annually).

How does the project contribute to your organization's overall mission?

Agape Child & Family Services is a nationally COA (Council on Accreditation) accredited faith-based agency launched in 1970. We serve orphaned children, homeless women/children, and at-risk communities in Greater Memphis. Our Mission is: A Christ-centered ministry dedicated to providing children and families with healthy homes. Our Vision is to serve children, families and communities by sharing God's love throughout the Mid-South. With excellence, we will connect people to God's mission by uniting children with loving families, strengthening homes and communities with intentional relationships, and linking servants to service. — Families in Transition (FIT) was launched in July 2001 to serve homeless pregnant and parenting mothers and their children so they can live productively in their own home. Due to the success of this program (97% success rate in the most recent year), FIT has grown from initially serving 6 homeless families (in 2001) to now serving 51 homeless pregnant and parenting families at a time. Agape now serves 33% of all homeless families in Shelby County, and increasing FIT to serve families experiencing domestic violence (bringing on 15 new FIT units for this population, effective October 2015).

(Section Break)

Narrative - Evaluation

Please explain how you will measure the effectiveness of your activities. Describe your criteria for a successful program and the results you expect to have achieved by the end of the funding period.

Expected Outcomes of the Project: Families fleeing DV will have immediate access to case management and referral services via the Family Safety Center and the FIT transitional housing program. Expected outcomes include a more efficient and better integrated process for understanding the referral experience and well as discussion and forward movement on community capacity with expected increase of capacity in serving DV survivors. Current outcomes include: • 93% Housing stability for all current program participants • 100% of children successfully promoted to the next grade level • 100% of head of households remaining free from abusive relationships (none have returned to their abusers) Expected Outcomes: • 90% Housing stability for all current program participants • 100% of children successfully promoted to the next grade level • 100% of head of households remaining free from abusive relationships (none have returned to their abusers) Via internal and external databases we will provide data for those served to measure on a monthly basis achievements made.

Attachments:

If your request is under \$25,000 please attach the following:

1. Copy of the entity's 501 (c) 3 certificate for charitable organizations or 501 (c) 4 certificate for civic organizations
 2. Most recent IRS Form 990 or Financial Statements (balance sheet and income statement) as of the most recent fiscal year end certified by Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer of the entity.
 3. Complete Budget for grant request
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If your request is \$25,000 or more please attach the following:

1. Copy of the entity's 501 (c) 3 certificate for charitable organizations or 501 (c) 4 certificate for civic organizations
 2. Copy of an annual audit as of a date within 18 months of the start of the current fiscal year.
 3. Complete Budget for grant request
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File 1

[501c3 Status.pdf](#)

File 2 [Agape Audited Financial Statements 2015.pdf](#)

File 3 [Budget Detail.pdf](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Read, and if you agree to the provisions, sign the following:

The information provided has been submitted in good faith and as completely as our records and recollections permit.

I understand that the information provided in this application shall be open to inspection upon filing with the office of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners.

Signature: David Jordan

Printed Name: David Jordan

Date 6/10/2016
